

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraphs on page 1, lines 5-27 as follows:

FIELD

The invention relates to a process for removing a contaminant from soil with the aid of a stripping gas and with a biologically active layer being present in or on the soil. ~~Such a process is known from the Dutch Patent NL-8902879.~~

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

~~It describes a~~ A process for removing contaminants from soil with the aid of a stripping gas ~~is known from EP 0 429 137~~ whereby the stripping gas is injected into the soil at the depth of and/or beneath the contaminant so that the contaminant is volatilized with the stripping gas and the stripping gas rises along with the contaminant to the surface above the contaminated soil. During the ascent, the stripping gas with the contaminant passes through a biologically active layer present in or on the soil.

A drawback of the known process is that the stripping gas with the contaminant does not always rise to the location where the biologically active layer is present or where a biologically active layer can be applied. ~~EP 0 429 137~~ ~~The Dutch Patent NL-8902879~~ describes that spreading of the stripping gas with contaminants can be prevented by providing barriers such as a water screen. Another process is known from US Patent No. 6,547,489 wherein, ~~and the Dutch Patent NL-1014573 describes that~~ the stripping gas can be directed to some extent by providing a pneumatic screen and that the stripping gas can be prevented from spreading in random directions however this does not present a solution in situations where it is not possible to install a barrier along the full circumference of the contaminated area. Such a situation occurs where for example the

soil to be remediated forms part of a larger contaminated area (for example if the contaminated soil extends over plots of land owned by different proprietors and not all plots are to be remediated at the same time), or if an impervious layer extending over a large area is present above the area to be cleaned up.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, line 34 through page 6, line 4 as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

~~FIG. 4~~ Figure 1a schematically illustrates the flow of stripping gas injected into the ground for a process according to the prior art in which a medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is not present under an impermeable layer, and

Figure 1b schematically illustrates ~~(see FIG. 1a)~~ and for a process according to the invention in which a medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is present under an impermeable layer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION